

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A space-dividing wall panel system comprising:
5 a plurality of generally rectangular upright wall panels serially connected together so as to define a vertically enlarged wall extending upwardly from a floor, each said wall panel having a panel frame disposed in load-bearing relation with the floor;

10 said panel frame comprising a pair of laterally spaced vertical uprights defining opposite ends of said wall panel and horizontal first and second cross members extending laterally between said uprights, said first and second cross members being disposed in vertically spaced
15 relation and having opposite ends rigidly connected to said uprights, each said upright having a width defined between opposite outward facing side surfaces thereof, each of said first and second cross members being horizontally enlarged so as to each have a width defined
20 by laterally extending side surfaces that is greater than said width of said uprights, said first cross member including at least one elongate first channel extending between said opposite ends thereof, said first channel being disposed outwardly of said side surfaces of said
25 uprights in a non-interfering relation therewith and having opposite first and second open ends which open laterally from said opposite ends of said base panel, said first channel adapted to be aligned with a serially-adjacent one of said first channels of a serially-
30 adjacent wall panel;

each serially-adjacent pair of said first channels having said first open end of one said first channel aligned in communication with said second open end of the other said first channel to define a continuous
35 uninterrupted first track extending laterally between said serially-connected wall panels, said first track

being accessible from an exterior of said base panels;
and

at least one connector assembly having mounting
means for mounting a workstation component thereto and
5 connector means for connecting said connector assembly to
said first track of said base panel, said connector means
having a hook-like member adapted to slidably engage said
first channel, said connector means being slidable
between serially-adjacent base panels along said first
10 track.

2. The wall panel system according to Claim 1,
wherein said second cross member includes at least one
elongate second channel extending between said opposite
15 ends thereof, said second channel being disposed
outwardly of said uprights in a non-interfering relation
therewith and having first and second open ends adapted
to be aligned with a serially-adjacent one said second
channel of a serially-adjacent wall panel, said serially-
20 adjacent second channels defining a continuous
uninterrupted second track which is accessible from an
exterior of said base panel and which is spaced
vertically from said first track for engagement with said
connector assembly.

25 3. The wall panel system according to Claim 2,
wherein each of said first and second cross members
respectively include a pair of said first and second
channels, said channels of each said pair being disposed
30 outwardly from and on opposite sides of each said upright
such that said first and second tracks are accessible
from respective opposite sides of said wall panel.

35 4. The wall panel system according to Claim 1,
wherein at least one of said first and second cross
members is a box-like cross beam which extends laterally
between said uprights and has opposite ends thereof

rigidly connected to the uprights, said cross beam having a vertically enlarged height defined by upper and lower walls thereof which is a substantial portion of the vertical height of said uprights, and said width defined by said side surfaces on opposite sides thereof which are vertically enlarged and extend vertically between said upper and lower walls, said side surfaces of said box-beam being spaced outwardly from said respective side surfaces of said uprights.

5. The wall panel system according to Claim 4, wherein said first channel is disposed on said cross beam.

6. The wall panel system according to Claim 4, wherein said box-beam has an interior defined by said upper and lower walls and said opposite side faces, said interior including an interior core therein which provides structural strength to said box-beam.

7. The wall panel system according to Claim 1, which includes a third cross member which extends substantially horizontally between said uprights, said first, second and third cross members being vertically spaced one from the other, said third cross member being horizontally enlarged so as to have said width which is greater than said width of said uprights, said second and third cross members further respectively including second and third elongate channels extending laterally between said opposite ends thereof, said second and third channels being disposed outwardly of said uprights in a non-interfering relation therewith to define continuous uninterrupted second and third tracks spaced vertically from said first track, said connector assembly being engageable with at least one of said first, second and third tracks.

8. The wall panel system according to Claim 7,
wherein said second cross member is disposed vertically
between said first and third cross members, upper and
lower horizontal raceways being defined in the open
interiors above and below said second cross member, said
second cross member including a vertical passage
extending therethrough in communication between said
upper and lower raceways for communicating said upper
raceway with said lower raceway.

9. The wall panel system according to Claim 8,
wherein at least one cover panel is adapted to cover one
of said upper and lower raceways on one side thereof,
said cover panel being connected to said frame by
mounting means for mounting said cover panel in an
outwardly spaced relation from said side surfaces of said
uprights to define a horizontal passage between each said
outward facing side surface and an opposing inward facing
surface of said cover panel, said horizontal raceway
opening laterally from said opposite ends of said wall
panel through said respective passages defined by said
uprights.

10. The wall panel system according to Claim 9,
wherein said cover panel is defined by horizontal upper
and lower edges, at least one of said upper and lower
horizontal edges of said cover panel is spaced vertically
from an adjacent one of said first, second or third cross
members to define a horizontally elongate gap
therebetween which is in communication with one of said
upper and lower raceways.

11. The wall panel system according to Claim 1,
wherein said first track opens upwardly along a
longitudinal length thereof, said hook-like member of
said connector assembly including a downwardly depending

leg which seats within said first track and is slidable therealong.

12. The wall panel system according to Claim 11,
5 wherein said first track has longitudinally spaced apertures along a bottom surface thereof which apertures open upwardly, said downwardly depending leg of said connector assembly comprising at least one projection
10 which seats within said corresponding apertures for preventing sliding along said first track when engaged therewith.

13. The wall panel system according to Claim 12,
15 wherein said apertures also open sidewardly from a back wall of said first track which faces sidewardly, said hook-like member including a sidewardly extending leg which projects sidewardly from said downwardly depending leg, said sidewardly projecting leg including at least
20 one projection which seats within one of said apertures through said back wall for preventing sliding along said first track when engaged therewith.

14. A space-dividing upright wall panel disposed in a load-bearing relation with a floor, comprising:
25 a pair of laterally spaced apart vertical uprights defining opposite ends of said wall panel, each said upright having outward facing side surfaces on opposite sides thereof which define a width of said uprights;
at least one box-like cross beam which extends
30 laterally between said uprights and has opposite ends thereof rigidly connected to said uprights, said cross beam having a vertically enlarged height defined by upper and lower walls thereof which is a substantial portion of a vertical height of said uprights, and a width defined
35 by vertically enlarged side faces on opposite sides thereof which face outwardly and extend vertically between said upper and lower walls, said side faces being

spaced outwardly from said respective side surfaces of said uprights such that said width of said cross beam is greater than said width of said uprights;

at least a first cross member connected between said uprights a vertically spaced distance from said cross beam, a horizontal first raceway being defined by an open interior of said wall panel which is formed vertically between said first cross member and said cross beam and extends laterally between said uprights, a frame of said wall panel being defined by said uprights, cross beam and first cross member; and

at least one cover panel adapted to cover said horizontal raceway on one side thereof, said cover panel being connected to said frame by mounting means for mounting said cover panel in an outwardly spaced relation from said side surfaces of said uprights to define passages, each said passage being defined between said upright side surface and an opposing inward facing surface of said cover panel, said passages opening laterally from said opposite end of said wall panel such that said first raceway opens laterally from said opposite ends of said wall panel through said respective passages.

15. The wall panel according to Claim 14, wherein said upper wall of said cross beam extends outwardly of said side surfaces on opposite sides of said uprights, said upper wall including at least one elongate first channel extending between said opposite ends thereof, said first channel being spaced outwardly from said side surfaces of said uprights and having opposite first and second open ends which open laterally from the opposite ends of said base panel, each serially-adjacent pair of said first channels of a serially-adjacent pair of said base panels having said first open end of one said first channel aligned in communication with said second open end of the other said first channel to define a laterally

elongate first track, said first track being accessible from an exterior of said base panels.

16. The wall panel according to Claim 15, wherein said lower wall of said cross beam extends outwardly of said side surfaces on opposite sides of said uprights, said lower wall also including at least one said first channel disposed outwardly of said uprights.

17. The wall panel according to Claim 15, which includes at least one connector assembly for slidable connection to said first track, said first track opening upwardly and said connector assembly including a downwardly depending leg which seats within said track and is continuously slidable therealong, said connector assembly including a furniture component connected thereto.

18. The wall panel system according to Claim 17, wherein at least one of upper and lower horizontal edges of said cover panel is spaced vertically from an adjacent one of said cross-beam and cross member to define a horizontally elongate gap therebetween, said gap being in communication with said first raceway for providing entry and exit of cabling to said wall panel.

19. The wall panel according to Claim 14, which includes an additional extension panel which is vertically stackable on an upper end of said wall panel, said extension panel including mounting means for mounting said extension panel in a vertically extending position on said base panel, said extension panel having a substantially rectangular frame which includes a laterally spaced pair of vertical uprights and at least one second cross member extending therebetween, said second cross member including a laterally elongate second channel disposed outwardly of side surfaces of said

vertical uprights in a non-interfering relation therewith.

20. The wall panel according to Claim 19, wherein
5 said second channel includes opposite first and second
open ends which open laterally from the opposite ends of
said extension panel, each serially-adjacent pair of said
second channels of a serially-adjacent pair of said
10 extension panels having said first open end of one said
second channel aligned in communication with said second
open end of the other said second channel to define a
laterally elongate second track, said second track being
accessible from an exterior of said extension panel, at
15 least one connector unit being slidably engaged with said
track so as to be continuously slidable therealong
between serially-adjacent extension panels.

21. The wall panel according to Claim 14, wherein
said cross beam has a hollow interior defined by said
20 upper and lower walls and said side faces.

22. The wall panel according to Claim 21, wherein
said upper and lower walls and said side faces are
independent components rigidly joined together in a box-
25 like configuration.

23. The wall panel according to Claim 21, wherein a
solid core is disposed within said hollow interior.

30 24. The wall panel according to Claim 14, wherein
said first cross member is disposed at lowermost ends of
said uprights, said first cross member being tubular and
defining a horizontal second raceway therethrough, said
cross member including a vertical passage in
35 communication with said second raceway and said first
raceway of said base panel disposed between said first
cross member and said cross beam.

25. The wall panel according to Claim 15, wherein said cross member includes at least one elongate second channel extending between said opposite ends thereof, said second channel disposed outwardly of said uprights in a non-interfering relation therewith and having opposite open ends adapted to be aligned with a serially-adjacent one of said second channels of a serially-adjacent base panel assembly, said serially-adjacent second channels defining a continuous uninterrupted second track which is accessible from an exterior of said base panel and which is spaced vertically from said first track.

26. The wall panel according to Claim 25, wherein said first and second channels open upwardly, said lower wall of said cross beam extending outwardly of said side surfaces on opposite sides of said uprights and including at least one third channel extending between said opposite ends thereof, said third channel being disposed outwardly of said side surfaces of said uprights in a non-interfering relation therewith and being adapted to be aligned with a serially-adjacent one said third channel of a serially-adjacent wall panel assembly, each serially-adjacent pair of said third channels being aligned in communication to define a continuous uninterrupted third track extending laterally between said serially-connected wall panel assemblies, said cross member being removably connected to said uprights so as to be rotatable about a horizontal axis between first and second positions and reattached thereto, said second channel opening upwardly in said first position when said wall panel is positioned with said first channel opening upwardly, and said second channel opening upwardly in said second position when said wall panel is positioned with said third channel opening upwardly.

27. A wall panel assembly for carrying cabling and supporting loads of a workstation comprising:

a generally upright rectangular panel frame which is disposed in a load-bearing relation with a floor and has
5 connector means at opposite ends of said frame to connect additional serially-adjacent wall panels thereto, and a plurality of vertically enlarged cover panels which extend laterally between said opposite ends and are removably positioned on opposite sides of said frame;

10 said frame comprising elongate vertical elements which are laterally spaced one from the other proximate the opposite ends of the frame, and a plurality of horizontally elongate horizontal elements extending laterally between said vertical elements, said horizontal
15 elements being vertically spaced one from the other so as to define at least one open interior defined vertically between a vertically adjacent pair of said horizontal elements and laterally between said vertical elements disposed proximate said opposite ends;

20 at least one of said horizontal elements including channel means for defining at least one horizontally elongate first channel extending laterally between said opposite ends of said frame and disposed in non-interfering relation with said vertical elements, said
25 first channel having opposite open ends which open laterally from said respective opposite ends of said frame, each said channel adapted to be aligned in communication with a laterally adjacent channel of a laterally adjacent frame;

30 said cover panels including mounting means for mounting said cover panels to said frame in outwardly spaced relation from said vertical elements so that a passage is defined between each outward facing side surface of said vertical element and an opposing inward
35 facing surface of said cover panel, each said passage opening laterally from said opposite ends of said wall panel and being in communication with said hollow

interior to permit the passage of cabling through said passage adjacent said side surfaces of said vertical elements.

5 28. The wall panel according to Claim 27, wherein said raceway has cabling disposed therein and said cover panel has a laterally extending edge which is vertically spaced from one said horizontal element disposed adjacent thereto to define a passage between an exterior of said
10 wall panel and said hollow interior, said passage adapted to receive cabling therethrough.

 29. The wall panel according to Claim 27, wherein at least a portion of said vertical elements have a width
15 defined by said opposite side surfaces which is less than a width defined by opposite outward facing surfaces of said horizontal elements to define said passage.

 30. The wall panel according to Claim 27, wherein
20 each said horizontal member includes said channel means for defining at least one said horizontally elongate channel therein.

 31. The wall panel according to Claim 30, wherein
25 said channel means defines two of said first channels, said first channels being disposed outwardly of said vertical elements.

 32. The wall panel according to Claim 27, which
30 includes an additional extension panel which is vertically stackable on an upper end of said wall panel, said extension panel including mounting means for mounting said extension panel in a vertically extending position on said base panel, said extension panel having
35 a substantially rectangular frame which includes a laterally spaced pair of vertical uprights and at least one cross member extending therebetween, said cross

member including one said second channel disposed outwardly of opposite side surfaces of said vertical uprights in a non-interfering relation therewith.

- 5 33. The wall panel according to Claim 27, which includes at least one connector assembly for mounting a workstation component thereto and connector means for connecting said connector assembly to said first channel, said connector assembly including a vertical rail and a
10 U-shaped gap-filling channel slidably fitted to said rail and horizontally movable toward and away from said cover panels.